United Nations E/AC.51/2014/L.4/Add.13

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
30 June 2014

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-fourth session
2-27 June 2014
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Hiroshi **Onuma** (Japan)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Programme 2
Political affairs

1. At its 5th meeting, on 3 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 2)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework (E/AC.51/2014/CRP.1).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the Programme.

Discussion

3. Views and appreciation were expressed that the programme was very important for the maintenance of international peace and security. It was noted that recommendations of the Committee were taken into account in preparing the proposed strategic framework. Clarification was sought on deletions or modifications of the text, as compared with the programme for the biennium 2014-2015, including the drafting of strategies and objectives, the number and order of expected accomplishments, and the deletion of paragraphs on coordination and structure. The view was expressed that brevity did not always contribute to greater

14-56486 (E) 030714

Please recycle

understanding and that the need existed for a balance between brevity and substance. Views were also expressed in favour of the fresh presentation of the strategic framework of the programme. With regard to the challenges faced by the Department of Political Affairs in implementing its programme owing to limited travel resources as reflected in the programme performance report for the biennium 2012-2013 (A/69/144), clarification was sought on the use of alternative means for addressing such challenges. Elaboration was requested on the incorporation of a gender perspective across the programme as well as legislative mandates that were specific to the proposed strategic framework.

4. With respect to subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, clarification was sought concerning the inclusion of the phrase "partnerships with other United Nations and non-United Nations actors" (para. 2.7 (h)) in the strategy, and the exclusion of "enhancing political and operational links with the Peacebuilding Commission, Support Office and Fund" (para. 2.7 (l)).

5. With regard to subprogramme 2, Electoral assistance, clarification was sought with regard to changes to the objective, as well as legislative mandates that resulted in the changes, including the use of the term "genuine elections". Clarification was also sought on expected accomplishment (b), "Strengthened system-wide coherence and consistency in the provision of United Nations electoral assistance".

6. With regard to subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, it was noted that indicator of achievement (a) would measure the degree of satisfaction of the wider United Nations membership. The view was expressed that the term "wider membership", and how the Secretariat would measure satisfaction, was not clear.

7. With regard to subprogramme 4, Decolonization, concern was expressed that the strategy had been summarized and essential elements such as the provision of substantive support to legislative bodies, particularly the Special Committee, had been excluded. It was indicated that the deleted text needed to be reinstated.

8. Regarding subprogramme 5, Question of Palestine, concern was expressed about the changes to the strategy, particularly the replacement of the words "all relevant United Nations resolutions" with "international legitimacy" (para. 2.13), and clarification was sought on the meaning of "international legitimacy" and how it would be ensured that all resolutions would be implemented. Views were also expressed that indicator (iii), "increase in international awareness", was not measurable, and hence it seemed more like an expected accomplishment than an indicator of achievement.

9. Views were also expressed in support of subprogramme 6, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the development of the capacity of Member States in that regard.

10. With regard to subprogramme 7, Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, clarification was sought concerning the exclusion of the words "diplomatic" and "cultural" from the strategy. With respect to indicator of achievement (c), clarification was sought on the comparative advantage of replacing "medium-term response plan" with "United Nations Development Assistance Framework". It was pointed out that the term "participants" in expected accomplishment (a) was vague.

11. Regarding subprogramme 8, Peacebuilding Support Office, the importance of the subprogramme for development was underscored. It was recalled that the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture is to be conducted in 2015. Views were expressed that, regardless of the outcome of the review, the Peacebuilding Support Office should continue to provide analytical support to the Peacebuilding Commission. Clarification was sought on the exclusion of expected accomplishment (b) of the 2014-2015 framework, relating to the Peacebuilding Fund.

12. With regard to subprogramme 9, United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, clarification was sought on the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed strategic framework, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 2.2

In the second sentence, replace the words "peacemaking and post-conflict peacebuilding" with "peacemaking, capacity-building and post-conflict peacebuilding".

Paragraph 2.5

In the second sentence, delete the words "and guide".

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with the following:

"(a) Improved capacity and capability of Member States to identify, prevent and address conflict situations".

Strategy

Paragraph 2.7 (h)

Replace "non-United Nations actors" with "subregional, regional and international organizations".

Paragraph 2.7 (m)

At the end of the paragraph, add: "and (m) empowering women in peacebuilding and mediation efforts".

Subprogramme 2
Electoral assistance

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective of the Organization with "To strengthen the existing capacity of the requesting Member States, in particular by enhancing the capacity of national electoral institutions".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (iii) with the following:

"Increased number of cases where electoral missions/experts were deployed within the required time frame".

In indicator of achievement (b), delete "including on integrated electoral assistance".

Subprogramme 4
Decolonization

Strategy

Paragraph 2.10

In the first sentence, after "Decolonization Unit", add "which will provide support to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as to the General Assembly".

Paragraph 2.12

Replace the paragraph with the text of paragraph 2.14 of the programme for the biennium 2014-2015, reading as follows, and replace the number "16" with "17":

> **"2.12 In support of the above-mentioned legislative bodies, especially the Special Committee, advice and substantive assistance will be provided to the Committee, including in its deliberations on the situation in the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories at the annual sessions; during the preparation and conduct of its seminars held alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions; during visiting missions; and in any other activity carried out to implement the mandated programme of work of the Committee. Assistance will also be provided in improving the Committee's cooperation with the administering Powers, maintaining contacts with the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and developing relations with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, aimed at achieving further progress in decolonization and bringing a complete end to colonialism. Supportive actions will include closely following the developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, conducting research and preparing working papers, reports and analytical and briefing materials. In addition, in cooperation with the Department**

of Public Information, information material, including publications and audio and visual programmes related to decolonization, will be prepared and disseminated to a wide audience, with a view to increasing the awareness of the international community with regard to the decolonization issues as well as in mobilizing international support for the achievement of the complete eradication of colonialism."

Subprogramme 5
Question of Palestine

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (iii) with the following:

"Increase in international awareness of the question of Palestine, including through an increased number of quality briefing notes, informational materials and resources provided by the Division for Palestinian Rights".

Strategy

Paragraph 2.13

After the second sentence, insert the following:

"Supportive action by the United Nations will continue until all aspects of the question of Palestine are resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international law."

Subprogramme 7
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (b) with the following text:

"The level of resources made available for improving the socioeconomic conditions of the Palestinian people is maintained in accordance with their needs".

Strategy

Paragraph 2.15

In the first sentence, replace "taking into account gender perspectives" with "taking into account diplomatic, cultural and gender perspectives", and replace the words "Occupied Palestinian Territory" with "Palestine".

Replace the second sentence with the following:

"The Office will act as a focal point for the United Nations in its efforts to encourage and engage the parties and the international community through increased planning, negotiations and consultations, with a view to making progress towards a two-State solution."

Paragraph 2.16

Replace the words "Occupied Palestinian Territory" with "Palestine".

Subprogramme 8
Peacebuilding Support Office

Objective of the Organization

In the objective, replace "countries emerging from conflict" with "post-conflict countries".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (i), delete the words "and guide".

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), replace "Percentage of funds" with "All funds".

At the beginning of indicator of achievement (b) (iv), insert the word "Maintained".

At the beginning of indicator of achievement (c), insert the word "Increased".

Legislative mandates

Under subprogramme 1, replace the subject of S/PRST/2011/4 with "Maintenance of international peace and security: the interdependence between security and development".